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Book Review

Advances in Drug Delivery Systems, 6
James M. Anderson, Sung Wan Kim, Jindrich
Kopecek and Kristine Knutson (Eds)
Elsevier Science B.V., Amsterdam, 1994.
ISBN: 0-444-82027-2.
Price \$200; 350 pages.

Perhaps I should begin this review with a conundrum – when is a book not a book? Answer; when it is a collection of individual conference presentations! This collection (book?) comprises an extensive range of both oral and poster presentations which took place at the Sixth International Symposium on Recent Advances in Drug delivery Systems held in Salt Lake City from February 21–24, 1993. The main research areas covered by the oral presentations were Novel Drug Delivery Systems, Peptide and Protein Delivery, Targetting and Cellular Recognition in Drug Delivery and Drug Delivery to the Brain. The posters included Transmembrane Transport, Oral and Parenteral Delivery, Biopharmaceutics, Novel Therapeutic Delivery Systems and Liposome and Microsphere Transport and Delivery.

The collection can be divided into two main

sections; the first, taking some 266 pages, is a sequential collection of papers published in the *Journal of Controlled Release*, Vol. 28, issues 1–3. The second is a collection of abstracts based on the poster presentations (pages 267–357).

Writing a proper book is an all-consuming task and I think that this type of cobbled together effort denigrates the term book. The comments that I have made should in no way be interpreted as adverse comment on individual papers, many of which represent excellent science. However, not only is it difficult to review a work of this nature but it is really impossible to recommend it when, apart from the poster abstracts, all between the covers can be found, in identical form, in the literature (*Journal of Controlled Release*, 28, 3–263, inclusive). As a final comment, I think that editors and publishers should title such collections Proceedings of.....; then, at least, we would know what to expect!

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